

"The Joy of the Lord"

➤ **Text:** Nehemiah 8:10

➤ **Introduction:**

- From our verse we can see the "joy of the LORD" is very important to the Christian.
- It is what gives us our strength to live as pilgrims and sojourners until the Lord return for us at the Rapture or Catching-Away of the Church.
- The "joy of the LORD" is very unlike the "joy of the world".
- People try to achieve the "joy of the world" by serving the trinity of Me. Myself, and I.
- However, the "joy of the LORD" is not something that can be generated in the flesh.
- True joy, the "joy of the LORD" can only be generated in a person's life by the Holy Spirit.
 - Galatians 5:22, tells us that "joy", joy that is of the Lord is a fruit of the Spirit.
- God promises us this joy:
- 1) Psalm 16:11 - **"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy;..."**
- 2) Jesus said:
 - a. John 15:11 - **"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy (the joy of the Lord) might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."**
 - b. John 16:24 - **"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."**
 - c. In our Lord's prayer to the Father, Jesus prayed John 17:13 - **"And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves."**
- 3) Paul, the Apostle - Romans 14:17 - **"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."**
 - "Kingdom of God" is what a person enters into when he believes on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved.
 - Noticed, when a person enters into the "kingdom of God", joy is promised.
- -Since, the joy of the Lord is our strength and I don't know about you but I need all the strength I can get, we want to see through the Word of God, how this precious commodity can be obtained.
- I want to look at three things that will produce the "joy of the Lord" in the Christian's life.

➤ **I. Salvation** - Produces the "joy" of the Lord

- Turn to Luke 10.
- The Lord in Luke 10 appointed 70, and sent them out two by two before him.
- We are told He sent them "into every city and place" where the Lord would go.
- -In verse 17, Luke 10 - We are told that the 70 returned "with joy" because of all the things they did in his name - **"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name."**

- Notice the Lord's response in verses 19-20.
 - **Read verses 19-20**
- Jesus tells the seventy where the focus of their joy should be, not in the power given to them, but the fact that their names were written in heaven.
 - In other words, they should rejoice because of their salvation.
- My dear friend if you are a saved born again child of God then you should rejoice that your name is written in heaven!!!! - Amen!!!
 - You should have joy over your salvation.
- That joy should give you strength to fight the spiritual battle down here.
- In fact, the Bible tells us that once your name is written in heaven, it can never be blotted out!!! Amen!!!
 - **Revelation 3:5 - "...I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angel."**
- Please notice the alternative for a person whose name is not written heaven.
 - **Revelation 20:15 - "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."**
- **The prophet Isaiah wrote - "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" (Isa. 61:10)**
- David prayed when his fellowship with the Lord was broken due to sin,
 - **"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit" (Psalm 51:12)**
- My friend if you are saved, then you should have great joy because of your salvation!!!
- And that joy should give you strength!!!
- **II. Suffering - Produces "joy" of the Lord.**
 - Please turn to Hebrews 12.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ is to be our example to follow in everything and that includes suffering.
 - Please notice in Hebrews 12, verse 2 in particular.
 - **"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"**
 - Jesus knew that because of the suffering that he went through on this earth, there would be a great eternal payoff.
 - What it says about the cross, that Jesus considered the suffering but look upon the suffering as "the joy that was set before him" - Amen!
 - Jesus knew there was awaiting as a result of his suffering future glorification.
 - Notice what the Bible says in Philippians 2:9-11.
 - **"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."**

- Jesus' suffering provided him great joy.
 - Jesus said to his disciples in Luke 6:22-23 - "**Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.**"
- My dear friend this still applies to the Christian today.
- The Apostle Peter, reinforces this same principle for the Christian that suffering in a Christian's life should produce great joy.
- Please turn to 1 Peter 4:12-14
- "**12 ¶ Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.**"
- Notice verse 13 - "rejoice" "exceeding joy"
- When Jesus comes, you will "be glad with exceeding joy" because of your suffering for Him!!!
- The Bible tells us 2 Timothy 2:12 - "**If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:**"
- -In James 1:2-3 - The Bible tells us "**2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.**"
- In Acts 5, we want to notice what the word of God says concerning the Apostles after they were beaten and forbidden to preach.
 - Notice verse 41 - "**And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.**"
- Christian, your suffering, should produce "joy" in your life which in turn should produce "strength".
- **III. Soul Winning - produces "the joy of the Lord"**
 - Psalm 126:5, tells us - "**They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.**"
 - Please turn to Luke 15.
 - The parable in Luke 15, shows us soul winning produces joy.
 - In the parable, we are given several illustrations of a lost sinner by the lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son.
 - We want to notice the great joy that was produced as the result of that which was lost being found.
 - All of course are illustrations of a lost sinner being saved.
 - The sheep - Luke 15:5-7:
 - Notice verse 5 - "rejoicing"
 - Notice verse 6 - "Rejoice"
 - Notice verse 7 - "Joy"
 - The coin - Luke 15:9-10:

- Notice verse 9 - "Rejoice"
 - Notice verse 10 - "Joy"
 - The son - Luke 15:11-32
 - Notice verse 23 - "be merry" - indicates joy
 - Notice verse 24 - "be merry"
 - Notice verse 32 - "make merry"
 - Notice verse 32, again - "be glad"
 - Soul Winning , leading a lost sinner to Christ produces "great joy" in a Christian's life, which in turn should give him strength.
 - Notice how the Apostle Paul addressed those he had won to the Lord.
 - Philippians 4:1 - **"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."**
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 - **"19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? 20 For ye are our glory and joy."**
 - Soul Winning produces , "great joy", Amen!!!
 - If you do not have joy, try winning someone to Lord.
 - I guarantee you will have "great joy".
- -Conclusion:
- We have seen three things in the Word of God that should produce "the joy of Lord" in the Christian's life.
 - And in turn give him strength to run the Christian Life.
 - **Salvation**
 - **Suffering**
 - **Soul Winning**
 - This list is not exhaustive.
 - May I suggest some others.
 - The Scriptures
 - The Saviour
 - Supplication
 - The Saints
 - The Sanctuary
 - The Song Book (Psalms)
 - Christian, you may be feeling that you have no strength.
 - This may be because you are joyless.
 - Will you not come to the sources that can produce joy in your life so that you will have the strength to fight the good fight, to finish your course and keep the faith!!!